

107TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3615

To amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to designated eligible entities to train school nurses as “first responders” in the event of a biological or chemical attack on the Nation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to designated eligible entities to train school nurses as “first responders” in the event of a biological or chemical attack on the Nation.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Our Schools  
5       Homeland Defense Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds as follows:

1           (1) There are more than 47,000 nurses in the  
2       Nation's elementary and secondary schools.

3           (2) Some children spend up to 10 hours in  
4       school each day.

5           (3) School nurses are the only professional  
6       health care providers in many schools.

7           (4) If a child becomes sick or arrives at school  
8       sick, a school nurse is often the first medical profes-  
9       sional to see, assess, and treat the child.

10          (5) In the event of a biological or chemical at-  
11       tack on the United States, school nurses would be  
12       among the first medical professionals to respond,  
13       would put themselves at risk, and would be respon-  
14       sible for a school's children and teachers, including  
15       those not subject to the attack.

16          (6) School children, including a large number of  
17       mainstreamed children with disabilities, may be  
18       more vulnerable to biological or chemical attack, and  
19       therefore show symptoms sooner than the general  
20       population.

21          (7) School nurses must be prepared for the  
22       kind of response that would be necessary if a biologi-  
23       cal or chemical attack occurs.

1           (8) The proper training of school nurses could  
2       provide for early detection and dramatically slow the  
3       spread of disease.

4           (9) If school nurses were trained to respond to  
5       biological or chemical attacks, school nurses could  
6       serve as critical “first responders” in the event of  
7       such an emergency.

8           (10) School nurses would perform a valuable  
9       service by recognizing a disease early and alerting  
10      local public health officials.

11 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

12       The purpose of this Act is to provide for grants to  
13      train school nurses as “first responders” in the event of  
14      a biological or chemical attack on the Nation.

15 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

16       Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42  
17      U.S.C. 296 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the  
18      following:

19       **“PART H—TRAINING NURSES FOR RESPONDING**  
20                                   **TO BIOTERRORISM**

21 **“SEC. 851. GRANTS FOR BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE.**

22       “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall award  
23      grants to designated eligible entities to train nurses to re-  
24      spond to an act of biological or chemical terrorism.

1       “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—A designated eligible entity  
2 that receives a grant under this section shall use funds  
3 under such grant to train nurses to respond to an act of  
4 biological or chemical terrorism.

5       “(c) RESERVATION.—From the total amount appro-  
6 priated to carry out this section each fiscal year, the Sec-  
7 retary shall reserve at least \$20,000,000 for grants under  
8 subsection (a) to local educational agencies.

9       “(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

10           “(1) DESIGNATED ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The  
11 term ‘designated eligible entity’ means an eligible  
12 entity that is a State educational agency, local edu-  
13 cational agency, or professional organization.

14           “(2) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY; LOCAL  
15 EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The terms ‘State edu-  
16 cational agency’ and ‘local educational agency’ have  
17 the meanings given to those terms in section 9101  
18 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
19 1965.”.

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